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Photo by Annie Sakkab

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VOICES

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE  LIVING AND LEAVING YOUR LEGACY
JANE ERICKSON  •  KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

“You’ve been a K-Kids advisor for 18 years?” asked my surprised new 9-year-old K-Kid. “That’s way longer than I’ve been alive and that’s a long time.” As I was pondering that “long time,” she continued with, “That’s a lot of K-Kids in 18 years and a lot of handprints.” She’s right about that. Now after 18 years I see my grown-up K-Kids serving their communities as moms, dads, workers and teachers. Wow, talk about Kiwanis leaving positive handprints!

As we move through our 102nd year of Kiwanis, I’m reminded that leaving our positive handprints is truly a privilege. Kiwanis is an opportunity to live and leave our legacy on a daily basis.

What is your club’s legacy? How are you leaving your personal handprint? Perhaps it’s through your club’s signature project? Maybe you’re the caring adult who reads to kids once a week. Maybe you’re the one providing them with a bike helmet and safety classes. Maybe you’re the pancake people who raise money to send kids to camp or put up all the flags on special holidays. With every service that helps kids and communities, we are leaving our positive handprints. We are leaving our legacy.

Legacy happens when Kiwanis stops being something we do and becomes something we are. We leave our legacy through Kiwanis when we become aware of the needs of children and find ways to solve those needs, when we invite others to join us in a project and in our club, when we open a new club, and when we ultimately help create a Kiwanis community.

Our legacy of positive handprints energizes the dream that every child is happy, healthy, safe and loved.

What legacy are you leaving? How will you leave your positive handprints today?

EXECUTIVE PERSPECTIVE  WHAT’S IN A REBRAND?
STAN SODERSTROM  •  KIWANIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we completed the active fundraising campaign of The Eliminate Project in early 2016, we commissioned an external assessment of our Kiwanis International Foundation. In effect, we pushed “pause” so we could gather feedback on where we should be headed as the charitable arm of Kiwanis International. What we learned was very worthwhile.

We heard that our donors want our foundation to align with club programs supporting Healthy children, Educating children, Leadership programs for youth and Priority needs for children. These are the things our members, donors and clubs care about, so they should be what the foundation supports.

Our donors also want to see their donations put to work, combined with other donations to make a difference for children in communities worldwide. This is why our Kiwanis International Foundation has been rebranded—or renamed—the Kiwanis Children’s Fund. This moniker more accurately says what we want from our Kiwanis charity.

As we utilize our Kiwanis Children’s Fund in support of Kiwanis globally, I ask all Kiwanians, everywhere, for your participation in two ways. First, whether you can make a gift of US$10 or $10,000, be an annual donor (kiwanis.org/childrensfund/give). Second, keep us in mind as a potential funding partner for unique, impactful, important Kiwanis service to children. Funding worthwhile projects will encourage more donations, and more donations will encourage new funding opportunities.

This is an exciting time for Kiwanis, and I hope every Kiwanian will be an active supporter and donor. We can’t do Kiwanis without you.
You won’t believe this year’s photo ops.

July 13–16, 2017    |    kiwanis.org/convention
NEW NAME, SAME MISSION

The Kiwanis International Foundation has changed its name to the Kiwanis Children’s Fund. The new name better conveys its purpose: We serve children. And it describes how: We raise funds to support grants for Kiwanis clubs and districts.

“With enhanced understanding of our foundation’s purpose and a stronger intellectual and emotional connection to the Kiwanis motto, we believe this new name will lead to greater participation among clubs and individuals, increased availability of funds and, most importantly, more services provided to kids,” says Kiwanis Children’s Fund President Chia Sing Hwang.

For more details, visit kiwanis.org/childrensfund.

WE’RE SO CLOSE

As 2017 begins, Kiwanis is at a pivotal moment in our fight against maternal and neonatal tetanus—a disease on the brink of elimination. Globally, 41 of 59 priority countries have been validated for MNT elimination, most recently Equatorial Guinea, as well as Ethiopia (except for the Somali Region) and 16 out of 17 provinces in the Philippines. Stay up-to-date on progress at TheEliminateProject.org/progress.
GRANT PROCESS IMPROVING
The Kiwanis Children’s Fund is committed to implementing a new grant-making strategy.
“We appreciate your patience and understanding as we strive to make improvements during the coming months,” says Kiwanis Children’s Fund President Chia Sing Hwang. “The new club grant program will be unveiled in October 2017, and we will start accepting applications again at that time.”

PICTURE PERFECT
The Kiwanis photo management system is now available for use by clubs and districts. Kiwanis owns the rights to these images, and they can be used in Kiwanis-related print materials, online and on social media. The collection, which already includes images from Kiwanis’ new branding campaign, will continue to grow as more photos become available. Learn how to access and use this photo library by visiting kiwanis.org/gallery.

CRUISE CONTEST REMINDER
You only have two weeks left to sign up for a chance to win a seven-day Rhine River cruise for two.
Step 1: Between January 5 and 11:59 p.m. ET January 19, visit facebook.com/kiwanis.
Step 2: Click on the contest link.
Step 3: Identify your favorite Kiwanis Travel trip from the list of offerings.
The winner will be announced on Kiwanis’ 102nd birthday, January 21.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT
Despite great progress in the long fight to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus, too many mothers and babies remain at risk. Dr. Azhar Abid Raza, U.S. Fund for UNICEF MNT elimination specialist, recently returned from Haiti. He described what it’s like on the front lines of this ongoing battle.

“The countries are working hard,” Raza reports. “Yet I still see a lot of room for improvement in community immunization programs and in health services, particularly antenatal care.”
Read the US Fund for UNICEF interview at TheEliminateProject.org/blog/2017raza.
NEWS

ADD ANOTHER CANDLE
It’s Kiwanis’ birthday, again. On January 21, Kiwanis celebrates the 102nd anniversary of receiving its charter from the State of Michigan, USA.

ASPAC IN JEJU
Jeju, South Korea—a picturesque region known for beach resorts, hiking trails and caves—will host the 41st Annual Kiwanis Asia-Pacific Conference on March 9–11. For more details, visit aspac2017.kiwanis.or.kr.

NEW RULE FOR NEW CLUBS
The United States Internal Revenue Service has passed a new regulation requiring all newly formed 501(c)(4) organizations to notify the IRS of their intention to operate as a 501(c)(4) by filing Form 8976. For more information, visit kiwanis.org/form8976.

FLAG CONTEST
Flag subscription programs are great fundraisers that make your club known in your community. And January is a good time to get started, because Kiwanis Club Resources Partner Atlas Flags is conducting a drawing for a US$250 shopping spree. The contest is offered during the month of January. Learn more at kiwanis.atlasflags.com.

IRS FORM 990
In the United States, Kiwanis clubs are required to file one of three Form 990 reports for the Internal Revenue Service. Learn more at kiwanis.org/form990.

ZION’S NEW HANDS
Kiwanis likes children, and children like pancakes—which is why Kiwanis International will partner with IHOP to support National Pancake Day, March 7. Every dollar raised that day will go to local Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals—a Kiwanis Preferred Charity—to help young children like Zion.

At age 2, Zion (above, left) lost both hands and feet due to infection. Watch “Kiwanis Training” (vimeo.com/185556331) to hear Zion’s story and to learn how your Kiwanis family can take part in National Pancake Day.
WINNING MORE HONORS

Kiwanis magazine wins again! This past November, The FOLIO: Eddie & Ozzie Awards recognized the March 2016 feature “Viva Cuba” for Best Use of Photography among an international field of association and nonprofit publications.

Three other Kiwanis entries received honorable mention: January/February 2016’s “Fear” for cover design; December 2015’s “Planting a Seed” for feature design and March 2016’s “Open Arms” for use of photography.

A CENTURY OF PEP

In February 1917, Kiwanis founder Allen S. Browne introduced a publication in magazine format and called it The Kiwanis Club. Kiwanis International’s official publication was born.

Though its early years were troubled with detractors, debts and a flurry of name changes, the magazine soon found its voice with the appointment of Roe Fulkerson as editor. The Washington, DC, optician envisioned a publication of “pep and personality.” And he delivered.

A prolific storyteller, Fulkerson penned an identity of the ideal Kiwanis member with columns such as October 1932’s “The Man Who Was God,” in which a lad mistakes a helpful Kiwanian for God.

Fulkerson: “God has taken this happy, laughing bunch of Kiwanians and used them as instruments to carry out His divine will. Not half the time we are doing it do we realize this. We are just having fun, but it is divine fun.”

Through the century, Kiwanis magazine has linked the Kiwanis story to contemporary history. Stories have covered topics related to the Great Depression, war, agriculture, transportation, industrialization, city planning, as well as:

- Public health—from tuberculosis in the 1920s to iodine deficiency disorders in the 1990s.
- Entertainment—from humorist Will Rogers in the 1930s to actor Clint Eastwood in the 1980s.
- Children—injuries caused by automobile accidents in the 1910s to missing children in the 1980s.

Kiwanis magazine has extended its communication reach worldwide by expanding its role of “official publication” to include Kiwanis International’s website, the Kiwanis International Update email newsletter, social media and the kiwanismagazine.org storytelling, video and audio blog.

Happy 100th, Kiwanis magazine.
NEWS  THE FORMULA

"Things are working. We're getting new blood. All you have to do is push and keep pushing."

PUSHING FOR GROWTH

STATUS QUO IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR THIS FUTURE-FOCUSED CLUB.

STORY BY SAM STALL

When Jeff Stone (below) became president of the Kiwanis Club of Manhasset-Port Washington, New York, this past year, he decided to go all-out to build membership. The club's size was healthy, but newcomers were rare. It was time to address the future.

Stone took the problem seriously, because he'd already seen the damage that "standing pat" could do.

"In other clubs of which I'm a member, you'd have a big group of individuals who were all pretty much the same age, and as they got older they weren't replaced by younger members," he says. "I didn't want to see that for Kiwanis."

To revitalize their roster, he and his club mates initiated an energetic, across-the-board effort to bring in fresh blood. Their tactics included everything from increasing the club's online presence to courting potential members at public events.

The club's activities—everything from a golf outing to supporting National Pancake Day (see "Zion's new hands" on page 8)—offers myriad chances to both raise its community profile and attract new members.

Stone says they work hard to make sure club projects are covered by the local media, and their Facebook and web pages are scrupulously updated. Members attending or working events also wear Kiwanis shirts so they're easily spotted, and there's often an information table for the curious.

"We try to make it as easy as possible," Stone says. "But no pressure, of course. People respect that."

Stone says his fellow Kiwanians catch the eye of prospects using many of the same methods he employs to attract customers to his real estate business. In fact, he approaches his own clients about joining.

"I always ask new buyers who come to town if they'd like to become Kiwanians," he says. "I might say, 'Here's an application, here's what we're all about, or here's my card.'"

The club also works to increase the perceived value of Kiwanis membership by giving back not just to the community, but to its membership as well. It seeks top-notch speakers for meetings and makes a point of staying in touch with everybody on the rolls—both to keep them involved in club activities, and to make sure they’re OK. Stone got a firsthand taste of this commitment when, shortly after joining Kiwanis four years ago, he was felled by a heart attack. His new club friends checked on him regularly, and even bought a plant for his lawn.

"Two months after I became a Kiwanian, I had a triple bypass," he recalls. "And now I've got this huge bush that's still growing in my yard. Every time I see that, I see the love and caring behind it."

To say all this work has borne fruit would be an understatement. The club now boasts more than 90 members, with more coming. Indeed, the club's goal is to attract one newcomer every month. Not surprisingly, they plan to keep growing far into the future.

"All you have to do is push and keep pushing," Stone says.
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WAR GAMES
Reenacting Canada’s Battle of Stoney Creek
PHOTOS BY ANNIE SAKKAB • INTRO BY DANIELLE CASTONZO
THE DATE IS JUNE 5, 1813.

British troops have just discovered the presence of American troops in Stoney Creek, and they approach their enemy silently. When the American soldiers wake, they scramble for their weapons. Soon, the sky fills with shouts and musket fire.

It is a turning point in the War of 1812, allowing the British to reestablish their dominance in Niagara.

Today, the Battle of Stoney Creek Reenactment draws hundreds of community members every June to this community on the western shore of Lake Ontario. The annual weekend event is organized by the Battlefield House Museum and features historical demonstrations, period costumes, food, games and battle reenactments.

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Hamilton, Ontario, run the concession stands and raise funds for the community during the reenactment. See the Back Page (page 50) of this magazine for more about the role Kiwanis plays during this colorful and memorable event.
LET’S GO TO PARIS

AT THE 2017 KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, ATTENDEES CAN EXPERIENCE PARIS WHILE PARTICIPATING IN IMPORTANT BUSINESS FOR THEIR CLUBS.

PARIS.


VOICE OF KIWANIS

Yes, you can be la voix de Kiwanis. You can shape the organization’s future as one of your club’s representatives to the House of Delegates, which will elect new leaders and consider amendments to the Kiwanis International Bylaws. Download the delegate certificate at kiwanis.org/convention/elections.

RSVP

Répondez, s’il vous plait. Which is a beautiful French way of saying “please reply” or “register.” Which you can do easily at kiwanis.org/convention/register. RSVP today.

BONNE NUIT

After a day of strolling along the Seine or savoring duck confit, you’ll need a place to lay your head for the night. One of the benefits of being a Kiwanian is that you qualify for preferred rates at our two official hotels: Hyatt Regency Paris Etoile and Le Méridien Etoile, both located next to the convention center, 10 minutes away from the Arc de Triomphe and the Champs-Elysées. Check them out at kiwanis.org/convention/hotels.
BASTILLE DAY

On Friday, July 14, France will commemorate the storming of the Bastille in 1789, a historic occasion which led to the French Revolution. The day is packed morning to night with activities.

In the morning, a military parade will pass along the Avenue des Champs-Élysées. Kiwanis will postpone its business session until the afternoon so attendees can watch this grand procession.

In the evening, attend a fireman's ball. But don't miss the finale: From 11 to 11:30 p.m., fireworks will rocket off the Eiffel Tower and Trocadéro, adding even more illumination to the City of Light.

ELECTIONS

You'll find the current list of Kiwanis International candidates at kiwanis.org/convention/elections.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

- It's not necessary to tip at French restaurants. The same goes for taxis.
- France uses 220V electrical service. You may need a voltage converter and plug adapter.
- Slow down. Radar speed detectors are everywhere. And don't use your cell phone while driving. It's against the law.
- Get there fast. With record-breaking speeds of up to 320 kilometers per hour, the TGV is the fastest way to travel to more than 1,400 destinations in Europe.
- Ask your service provider about costs for using your phone abroad.

DON'T JUST OBSERVE

When the Kiwanis convention went to Tokyo in 2014, attendees folded origami cranes, practiced calligraphy, learned a few judo moves and discovered their inner Japanese.

This year, the convention will offer a variety of opportunities to immerse attendees in the local culture. Host Kiwanians currently are hard at work planning authentic French experiences. Check future issues of Kiwanis magazine for more details.
STAY SAFE

Kiwanis International offers travel and medical insurance, as well as emergency assistance to members and their families, including convention attendees traveling outside their home countries. To apply for coverage, visit kiwanis.org/convention/insurance.

OUI OU NON?

Should Kiwanis International allow online voting? Should the minimum membership for a charter club be increased from 15 to 20? These are just two of the proposed amendments that will be considered by the 2017 House of Delegates. Read them all at kiwanis.org/convention/amendments.

TWO CONVENTIONS IN ONE

Paris will host not one but two Kiwanis conventions. The 50th Kiwanis International European Federation convention is scheduled for July 12–16. The KIEF will host a three-course-dinner gala event with entertainment on Friday.

BONS AMIS

At the 2016 convention in Toronto, John from the New England and Bermuda District became friends with Rajan from Nepal, who also met Dhara from Florida, while Carrie from Ohio was getting “air kisses” from Austrians. Read what they had to say about their international experience on the convention blog at kiwanis.org/convention/news.
TOURS

WANDER AND WONDER
THERE’S PARIS. THEN THERE’S FRANCE. AND THEN THERE’S EUROPE. SO MUCH TO SEE.

That’s why Kiwanis offers pre- and post-convention tours, as well as day excursions, to many of the world’s most famous destinations. Book your tour at kiwanis.org/convention/tours

LISA’S RESIDENCE

When you join the Louvre Museum Tour, you’ll jump the queue for a guided tour of highlights (Mona Lisa lives here). Then, explore this expansive collection on your own.

AN EVENING IN PARIS

You’re such a romantic: Take a sunset cruise on the Seine, followed by the view from the Eiffel Tower’s second-floor gallery.
PANORAMIC PARIS

See all of our host city’s popular neighborhoods and landmarks on a four-hour panoramic coach tour. Your guide will introduce you to the Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame, the Invalides, the Concorde and more, including a photo stop at the Eiffel Tower.

D-DAY BEACHES

A scenic drive along France’s northwest coastline includes a German defense site, American and Canadian memorials and the Normandy Visitor Center, which has displays that tell the stories of June 6, 1944.

PROVENCE AND NORMANDY

The heart of Provence is in the hills that bind the Mediterranean Sea to the Alps. There, you’ll find sloping vineyards and the colorful scenery that charmed Cézanne, Van Gogh, Chagall and Giono.

From white chalk cliffs to World War II beachheads, Normandy is famous for its seaside towns and villages, its gastronomy, historical sites and monuments. Learn about convention tours at kiwanis.org/convention.

VERSAILLES AWAITS

Here’s your chance to admire the splendor inside and outside the royal château, including the Chapel, Hall of Mirrors, Hall of Battles and the magnificent gardens and groves.

A BIT OF THE BUBBLY

Visit the Champagne region, where the famous bubbly was invented ... by mistake. On a tour of vineyards and cellars outside Paris, you’ll learn the history and process of making champagne.
RUBY BRIDGES
A PURPOSEFUL LIFE

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KASEY JACKSON

RUBY BRIDGES IS FILLED WITH HOPE AND STRENGTH. IT’S APPROPRIATE, AFTER ALL, FOR A WOMAN WHO CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY BY WALKING UP THE STEPS TO ATTEND HER FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

But simple it was not. Quite the contrary. Walking up those steps, Ruby Bridges was about to integrate the William T. Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans, Louisiana. She was about to become the first black child to attend this all-white school. The year was 1960.

More than 50 years later, standing at the bottom of those same steps, next to the historical marker that tells of what happened here, Ruby talks about history, memories and what she hopes for not only her former neighborhood and school, but the entire world.

THE PROBLEM WE ALL LIVE WITH BY NORMAN ROCKWELL DRAMATIZED RUBY BRIDGES AND HER US MARSHAL ESCORTS. IMAGE COURTESY THE NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM
Ruby says that as a 6-year-old, she wasn’t aware of what was happening around her during those chaotic days. A court order had called for New Orleans schools to desegregate, and Ruby was one of six black children who had passed a test that allowed her to attend an all-white school.

She remembers the U.S. marshals escorting her from her home all the way to her classroom every single day, but she says at the time she didn’t really know why. At first she thought it was a Mardi Gras parade because there were policemen, and people were throwing things. And there was lots of yelling.

What she didn’t know is that those people were yelling at her. And they were yelling horrible, awful things. But she didn’t know anything about racism. She just knew things felt … different.

“I distinctly remember meeting my teacher, Mrs. (Barbara) Henry, for the first time,” she says. “I remember her walking in and me thinking that she’s white, and I had never seen a white teacher. Before that, everybody in my classroom looked like me. My teacher looked like me, the principal, the people who worked at the school. I didn’t know what to expect from Mrs. Henry. She looked exactly like all the people I had encountered standing outside the school, screaming. People who had walked past the principal’s office the day before, pointing at me and shouting. Faces really angry about something. That’s what I remember. But here she was, and I realized that she looked exactly like everybody else but she was not like them. She was, to me, the nicest

“What we are faced with is good and evil. And we need to understand that and stop paying attention to what we look like.”
teacher I had ever had—until then or since.” This was Ruby Bridges’ introduction to racism—and it was done directly in the national spotlight. It would shape who she was to become.

“You can come into the world and have an old soul,” she says. “I think you can have a gift. Definitely I was an old soul. I do honestly believe this is my purpose, to keep talking about how far we’ve come and how much we need to do. I’m doing what I was brought here to do.”

Ruby doesn’t like the question, “Have we made any progress at all?” She’s quick to say, emphatically, that “yes, absolutely,” we have made great strides in race relations. To even question if we have is to discount all the work of people like herself, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and countless others who fought for the advancement of civil rights and equality for all.

“It’s so personal for me,” she says. “I think about what I do, and what people like me are doing and have done. I think about King. I think there had to be days where he was so discouraged and didn’t want to get up and go out there. He knew he was putting his family in danger. I think when you are a person like he was, it’s not a job. It’s a calling. And you can’t turn your back on it. It weighs very, very heavily on you.”

But here’s where her thoughts might surprise you: It’s not just about race. She’s passionate and direct when explaining the problem isn’t black or white—the problem is actually deeper than the color of our skin.

“The reason why we are where we are today is, in part, because that happened to me over 50 years ago,” she says. “This should be a closed conversation by now. I didn’t know anything about racism. Yes, my parents knew. We grew up in a racist society and environment. But the kids didn’t know that. My parents and grandparents, they kept that to themselves. So for me, when I stepped into that school and all of that was going on, that was very strange and puzzling. And then to have a little boy look at me and say, ‘I can’t play with you because you’re a nigger.’ Well, all I was looking for was someone to play with. I want kids to know that racism has nothing to do with them. Everyone comes into this world with a clean
“I just believe that good will always, always conquer over evil. I think there’s way more good than evil in this world.”

Ruby Bridges travels a lot, speaking to children and adults about her story. Some students recognize her from their studies or from seeing a movie about her or reading “The Story of Ruby Bridges,” written by her child psychologist, Robert Coles. She speaks to groups for almost an hour and then, her favorite part, answers questions at the end. “Did you ever make any friends?” “Why did that lady have a coffin with a black baby doll in it?” Sometimes she’s moved to tears, often turning her back or putting her head down so the kids don’t see her becoming emotional.

But she loves what she does. And she believes in the power of sharing her story—of telling her story so that history gets it right. But also

start. My son came up with the slogan for the Ruby Bridges Foundation: ‘Racism is a grown-up disease. Let’s stop using kids to spread it.’ So my message to kids is this has nothing to do with you. Because that little boy wanted to play with me. He absolutely did.

“I want adults to understand that we are responsible for where we are right now. And now we’re all having the same conversation about how horrible the world is. How dangerous it is.

“I have lost a child. And I still don’t believe it has to do with the color of his skin. I believe there’s an us and a them. But it doesn’t have anything to do with what you and I look like. It’s good and evil. And that’s why we find people lying in the street dead. Evil doesn’t really care what you look like. Evil doesn’t care whether you’re white or black. It’s whether you open yourself up to it. And if evil doesn’t care, it uses one of us to do what we see being done today—in a church sitting with somebody for an hour and then getting up and shooting nine people. Going into a school and shooting 20 babies. That’s evil. That has nothing to do with the color of that person’s skin. The person I feel that stood over my son and shot him, he looked just like my son. But that was evil.

“What we are faced with is good and evil. And we need to understand that and stop paying attention to what we look like. If you are good, then I want you as a neighbor. I want you on my team. I’ll look out for your kids, you look out for mine. I don’t care what you look like. We have to stop buying into that racist way of thinking, and start to take care of one another.”

Ruby Bridges travels a lot, speaking to children and adults about her story. Some students recognize her from their studies or from seeing a movie about her or reading “The Story of Ruby Bridges,” written by her child psychologist, Robert Coles. She speaks to groups for almost an hour and then, her favorite part, answers questions at the end. “Did you ever make any friends?” “Why did that lady have a coffin with a black baby doll in it?” Sometimes she’s moved to tears, often turning her back or putting her head down so the kids don’t see her becoming emotional.

But she loves what she does. And she believes in the power of sharing her story—of telling her story so that history gets it right. But also
because she believes there’s so much hope in our younger generations.

“I just believe that good will always, always conquer over evil,” she says. “I think there’s way more good than evil in this world. Let’s stop dividing ourselves. Let’s stop fighting this battle alone. Let’s come together. Because there’s a much bigger issue going on, and it’s consuming all of us. And we know that.

“I think I see a hope that most people don’t. I do honestly know that if we’re going to get past our racial differences, it’s not going to come from us. It’s going to come from our kids. There’s been huge progress. Sacrifice. But the question we need to ask ourselves is ‘what have I done?’ Because so many people in my life have stepped up.

“I’m proud of my parents for what they did. And if Barbara Henry hadn’t wanted to teach me, we wouldn’t be sitting here today. I don’t think I would be the same person. I wouldn’t have been so open-minded or open-hearted.

“The lesson I took away in that classroom in first grade is that she looks exactly like them, but she’s not. So I can’t look at anybody and judge them that way. That’s what I left with. That’s what I carry with me every day. That’s what I want my kids to know. For me, there’s much, much more at stake than just what we look like.”

Ruby Bridges is filled with hope and strength.

Exactly what the world needs now.

Ruby Bridges will be the keynote speaker at the opening session of the Kiwanis International Convention in Paris, France, July 13-16, 2017.
THE ART OF INSPIRATION
AN ALBERTA ART STUDENT FINDS HIS INSPIRATION IN THE SMILES OF TERRIFIC KIDS.
STORY BY NICHOLAS DRAKE • PHOTOS BY KRISTY POMRENKE AND CHRIS RIDGEWELL

Chris Ridgewell almost missed a chance for big inspiration from a tiny source.

Entering college at the ripe age of 31, Ridgewell wanted to pursue his passion for the arts after a career in retail, construction and other odd jobs. At Medicine Hat College in Alberta, he became president of the Visual Arts Student Society, which volunteers a photographer each month to cover the Terrific Kids recognition program sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Medicine Hat Gas City.

“I tried to rally interest among my fellow art students, but the school year had just begun and everyone seemed busy,” Ridgewell says. “So I just took on the assignment myself.”

It turned into a blessing for both Ridgewell and Terrific Kids. Inspired by the joy he captured on the faces of elementary school students who are recognized for improving behavior, peer relationships, attendance and school work, Ridgewell wrote an article about his experience for the local Copy Works Connection publication.

“When I grew up, you did arts in your spare time,” says Ridgewell (above). “Pursuing arts as a career was not taken seriously. Now here I was back at Southview Community School where I went as a kid—my photo is still up on one of the walls—and I’m able to show all these Terrific Kids that pursuing arts as a career is a worthy path.

“Today, an arts degree can get you jobs in ad agencies, media outlets, architecture firms and virtually any digital business. You can do 3D printing of, say, prosthetics to send half-way around the world. It’s a career worth pursuing.”

The Kiwanis club has sponsored a Terrific Kids program for Medicine Hat elementary school students for the past 30 years. Some 7,000 students have been recognized in front of their peers during school assemblies.

“Each student receives a framed certificate and a photograph taken by Chris of the child wearing his or her Terrific Kids T-shirt,” says club member Bill des Barres. “Our club members were flattered and proud that Chris was impressed enough to pen the article, ‘Focus on a New Generation.’”

“The Gas City Kiwanis Club gave me an opportunity of my own to give back through my talents.”
SOUND MONEY
ITALIAN KIWANIANS REDIRECT FUNDRAISERS’ PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS.
STORY BY ALISON STILWELL • PHOTOS BY ANDREA MILAZZO

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Pescara, Italy, had been planning two musical fundraisers, but when a 6.2-magnitude earthquake hit central Italy in August 2016, just days before the events, the club, performers, organizers and partners agreed to redirect the funds to help young survivors.

On August 24—as the Kiwanis Club of Pescara completed the last details for the August 27 and 30 events—small, hilltop villages in central Italy crumbled due to a powerful earthquake. More than 240 people perished. The tiny, perched village of Pescara del Tronto, about a 90-minute drive from Pescara, was devastated. The mayor said almost all the houses had collapsed; the centuries-old town was destroyed. Cave rescue specialists were brought in to look for survivors, wary of aftershocks.

The following weekend, acclaimed classical/pop pianist Ezio Bosso headlined one of the Kiwanis events, and singer Giò Di Tonno starred in a performance of the musical “Notre Dame de Paris.” Kiwanians asked audience members for contributions that would be used to provide surviving children with much-needed items as Pescara del Tronto rebuilds and rubble is removed.

“The funds will be used to set up a school for children, purchasing classroom furniture, books and school supplies,” says Angela Catalano, a member of the club’s fundraising committee team.

“The families,” she adds, “lost everything and have little aid.”

With flexibility, creativity and collaboration, Pescara Kiwanians made a noted difference in another community.

“The families lost everything and have little aid.”
SHOWCASE

“The kits were wonderful because they helped normalize the hospital experience for those patients.”

CARE PACKAGES
KIWANIS KITS COMBAT CHEMOTHERAPY’S SIDE-EFFECTS.
STORY BY TAMARA STEVENS

Long hospital stays for pediatric patients receiving chemotherapy can be filled with anxiety and a steady battle against side effects from the treatment. Members of the Wallingford, Connecticut, Kiwanis family found a way to help.

“Chemo Care Kits for Kids help with managing side effects from chemotherapy and provide needed distractions for kids and their families during this stressful time,” says Diane DeLibero, secretary of the Wallingford Kiwanis Club.

DeLibero and Kaitlyn Flynn of the Kiwanis club led the chemo-kit project, calling on K-Kids from Parker Farms, Yalesville, Rock Hill and Moses Y. Beach elementary schools and the Lyman Hall Key Club. Together, the Wallingford Kiwanis family collected enough items to assemble more than 200 kits.

“We set aside the month of May for donations,” DeLibero says. “Each school made posters and placed them around their schools to promote the project. We asked for comfort and activity items, as well as items that help with the side effects of chemotherapy.”

Each gift bag included a comfort item such as a stuffed animal or toy or cozy socks; activity items such as hand-held games, coloring books, puzzles or stickers; hard candy and lozenges that help soothe nausea; tissues, hand sanitizers and lip balm to help with dry lips and other items. The kits were donated to the Yale New Haven Children’s Hospital’s Pediatric Inpatient Hematology/Oncology Unit-Life Center in New Haven, Connecticut.

Child Life Specialist Cara Graneto says the kits were well received by the patients and their families.

“We passed them out to our inpatients and outpatients as well,” Graneto says. “They were great for our patients, especially for our patients who are admitted for lengthy admissions. The kits provided comforts away from home. Many of our patients experience nausea, and the lozenges in the kits helped with that. All the games and items were age-appropriate for our patients to enjoy, and they provided a much-needed distraction from their treatments.”

Graneto says the kits also had hands-on toys such as Legos that all children benefit from playing with.

“The kits were wonderful because they helped normalize the hospital experience for those patients,” Graneto says. “We definitely welcome collaboration with the Kiwanis club in the future.”
For many people, a lifetime of service begins in Kiwanis Service Leadership Programs. When your Kiwanis club sponsors K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club and others, you build crucial skills—in the people who will build a better world. Thank you for empowering Kiwanis family members of all ages and abilities.

Is your club looking for a sponsorship opportunity?
Get started at kiwanis.org/charter.
SHOWCASE

BUSINESS SCOOP
ICE CREAM RAISES FUNDS, TEACHES BUSINESS LESSONS FOR BUILDERS CLUB.
STORY BY ANDREW MCLAUGHLIN

Yes, ice cream is almost universally loved for obvious reasons. But in Wilsonville, Oregon, the classic treat also makes money for community projects and teaches kids how to run a successful business. The Wilsonville Kiwanis Club plays a supporting role.

Jr. Scoop is the venture, a student-run ice-cream operation launched six years ago at Wood Middle School. Wellness teacher Jordan Scoggins envisioned teaching kids to prepare and handle food properly.

Scoggins, a former professional chef and caterer, had a goal: teach the chemistry behind ice cream and the secrets to making it well. Jr. Scoop—an extracurricular club—was born.

But the kids had ideas beyond just making ice cream: Learn the nitty-gritty of building a business, market and sell the creamy goodness and donate the money to community needs. All they needed was a place to ply their decadent deeds.

“Wilsonville Kiwanian Jay Puppo, whose son was a student at Wood Middle School, referred Jordan to me for advice on accessing a kitchen for the (Jr. Scoops) club members,” says Kiwanian Donna Bane. She led the ice-cream peddlers to a middle school that had a kitchen available for the kids’ part-time use.

From there, a perfect union emerged: Wilsonville Kiwanians proposed organizing the young Jr. Scoop entrepreneurs into a Builders Club, and also pledged their support. “Kiwanis was the first to believe in us and our mission, which has made Jr. Scoop thrive,” says Builders Club member Averyl Hartje.

Jr. Scoop generates revenue by selling monthly ice-cream club memberships at various price points of US$50, $100 and $200. Members pick up their orders every Thursday, taking home favorites such as Triple Crown Blackberry Crisp, Cookies and Sweet Cream, Pistachio, and Seriously Doughlicious. Jr. Scoop also sells at local events, and outside of the ice-cream biz, members collect clothing for a super-size clothing sale, and the money goes to community events. In 2016, the club churned up US$60,000.

“Since the beginning, we have given to Doernbecher’s Childrens Hospital,” Scoggins says, “and other schools always have needs. So we’ve sponsored students who needed financial assistance for a Washington, D.C., trip, we’ve purchased musical instruments, and we’ve bought equipment for a wellness program. Our next goal is to purchase a building in town and convert it to a cooking school so our students can learn the skills of food preparation.”
AMAZING AND I HAD LOADS OF FUN. IT WAS AMAZING AND I HAD LOADS OF FUN. IT WAS BETTER PERSON. THE WHOLE EVENT WAS THINK MY WAY OF LIFE AND TRY TO BE A AND TRUSTWORTHY. IT FORCED ME TO RE LOT OF NEW PEOPLE. EVERYONE WAS KIND WORKED IN GROUPS AND GOT TO KNOW A IT WAS REALLY FUN. WE WERE ACTIVE AND COMMUNITY AND LEARNING EXPERIENCE. TIVE LEADERSHIP. IT WAS A REALLY GREAT EXPANDED MY UNDERSTANDING OF EFFEC FEEL LIKE ATTENDING THE EVENT REALLY IT REALLY OPENED NEW DOORS FOR ME. I LONG FRIENDS. I LOVED THE CURRICULUM. THE WEEKEND, NOW I'VE MADE SOME LIFE- HARDLY KNEW ANYONE AT THE START OF TIVITIES. IT CHANGED ME AS A PERSON. I SPHERE AND HANDS-ON LEARNING AC SO ENCOURAGING. I LOVED THE ATMO IT WAS SO MUCH FUN AND PEOPLE WERE
PAYING IT FORWARD AGAIN
OREGON BOY FOLLOWS HIS HEART BY FEEDING THE HOMELESS.
STORY BY KAREN PYLE TRENT

Nine-year-old Austin McRae is proof that sometimes big hearts come in small packages. Austin suffers from cystic fibrosis and Type 1 diabetes, but that hasn’t stopped him from helping homeless people in the Portland, Oregon, area and repaying kindness he’s received from his community.

“People have helped me my whole life,” says McRae, who has spent a lot of time in hospitals. “I saw homeless people, and I wanted to feed them. It makes me feel better.”

And feed them he does. Austin started simply by giving food and supplies every week to homeless individuals on the streets of Portland. But when donations from family and fellow church members weren’t quite enough, Austin looked for something bigger. That’s when he and his family started the not-for-profit Austin’s Cause, which opened Austin’s venture to donations, publicity and possibilities on a larger scale.

With contributions from restaurants, individuals and civic organizations, now Austin can deliver necessities to even more of Portland’s homeless on the streets and in the many homeless camps that have sprung up around the city.

“We go where our hearts tell us,” says Josh McRae, Austin’s father.

But growth doesn’t come without challenges. Food pick-ups and deliveries soon outgrew the family cars. That’s when Austin’s father contacted the Kiwanis Club of South Riverside, Portland, to inquire about a trailer the club had for sale. The club donated the trailer to Austin’s Cause.

“We were so impressed with Austin because at such a young age he wanted to serve the community in some way,” says Sandra Howard, secretary for the South Riverside club. “We were so glad to find another purpose for our trailer.”

About 30 years ago, the trailer had been donated to the club when it needed transportation for one of its fundraisers. Like Austin, the Kiwanians were eager to repeat such an act of kindness.

“We were so happy to pass it on,” Howard says.

“I saw homeless people, and I wanted to feed them. It makes me feel better.”
Around the world, kids need Kiwanis. When you give to the Kiwanis Children’s Fund, you help other Kiwanians reach them. You support the projects that Kiwanis clubs and districts can’t afford on their own, and you help fund Kiwanis family programs for all ages and abilities. You extend your impact... and change the lives of children near and far.

kiwanis.org/childrensfund
SHOWCASE

“It’s so important to partner with other community organizations to create the biggest and most successful impact.”

GARDEN-VARIETY SERVICE
UP AND AT ‘EM, EARLY RISERS FEED HUNGRY FAMILIES.
STORY BY KIMIKO MARTINEZ

More than 42 million Americans live in food insecure households, including 13.1 million children. And access to fresh, healthy foods can be particularly challenging. So when the Kiwanians in Silver City, New Mexico, planned their annual Kiwanis One Day event this past October, they partnered with the Volunteer Center of Grant County, which provides about 200 families with 50- to 75-pound boxes of food each month, including protein, healthy items and fruits and vegetables harvested from their own garden.

“Nutritious food availability is a basic need for all people, so creating a service project involving both adults and kids around helping to provide food to those in need was a win/win opportunity,” says Lori Ann Bonomo, past vice president of the Kiwanis Club of Silver City. “Many of the individuals facing food insecurity are children, and serving children is what Kiwanis is all about.”

Club members joined their Service Leadership Programs—more than 30 young people from K-Kids, Builders Club, Key Club and Aktion Club—at the Volunteer Center’s garden where they harvested more than 40 pounds of carrots, radishes, tomatoes, squash and peppers for distribution. They also planted snap peas and lettuces, and tended flower and vegetable beds.

“I had a few moments where I had tears in my eyes as I watched them all work together and learn,” Bonomo says. “All this on a Saturday morning when they could be at home catching up on sleep! They learned where food actually comes from—not from a grocery store—that many families are in need of food every day and that anyone can grow fruits and vegetables on their own.

“It’s so important to partner with other community organizations to create the biggest and most successful impact,” she continues. “I believe our Kiwanis One Day Project achieved that.”
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Runners, walkers and tiny trotters teamed up with the Marietta, Georgia, Kiwanis Club to raise funds for the Graduate Marietta initiative in their community’s schools.

Participants were encouraged to glow, flash, sparkle and blink during the club’s second Light the Way 5K this past May—and more than 420 of them did. Billed as fun for the whole family, the event included a free Tot Trot for ages 4 and under, a one-mile Fun Run/Walk, and the 5K race.

“I was running just by organizing it,” says Marietta Kiwanian Sarah Gaither, chair for the Light the Way 5K. “It felt like I’d run a marathon when it was all over!”

The event grossed about US$16,840, with proceeds benefitting the Graduate Marietta program. The Kiwanis club’s major emphasis for the past several years, Graduate Marietta focuses on preparing students K-12 for graduation through a comprehensive approach to multiple kinds of literacy. Kiwanians have funded laptops for high-school juniors, helped establish a Reading Oasis in three high-poverty elementary schools and funded greater exposure to healthy foods at the high school, among other efforts.

“We partnered with the Marietta City School system to gauge interest, and found that none of the 16 schools has ever done a road-race fundraiser,” Gaither says. “During our first year we had over 700 registered runners!”

“We have a great pool of people to draw from. We partnered with the Marietta City School system.”

Scholastic, a Kiwanis International Promotional Partner, helps clubs set up Kiwanis Reading Oasis programs. Visit kiwanis.org/partners/promotional for more information.
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100TH—1917
Downtown Madison, Wisconsin, February 5
Birmingham, Alabama, February 28
Nashville, Tennessee, February 28
Toronto, Ontario, March 8
El Paso, Texas, March 10

50TH—1967
Macon, Missouri, February 6
Battlefords (The), Saskatchewan, February 10
Bunker Hill Area, Illinois, February 15
Leisure World, Silver Spring, Maryland, March 24
Wilmington, Massachusetts, March 29

25TH—1992
Creswell, Oregon, February 6
Kingman-Powerhouse, Arizona, February 5
Portage, Indiana, February 7
Sumakwel, Roxas City, Philippines, February 14
Alessandria, Italy, February 19
Lombard, Illinois, February 20
Chelsea, Alabama, February 22
Nordby, Norway, February 26
Lier Tweek Neten, Belgium, February 26
Tournai Princesse d’Espinoy, Belgium, February 26
Pike County, Georgia, March 2
Charles County, Maryland, March 2
Windsor, California, March 11
Zug-Zugerland, Switzerland, March 14
Plauen, Germany, March 16
Zwettl-Schwarzalm-Waldviertel, Austria, March 16
Jakarta, Indonesia, March 17
San Antonio Army Residence Community Golden K, Texas, March 17
Hui Hsin, Pan Chiao City, Taiwan, March 20
Pai Ho, Kaohsiung City, Taiwan, March 22
Tai Feng, Taichung Hsien, Taiwan, March 23
Malate Central, Malate, Manila, Philippines, March 23
Lung Ching, Taichung Hsien, Taiwan, March 24
Tai ping City, Taiwan, March 26
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PART OF THE BATTLE
THERE’S GUNFIRE AND SMOKE. BABIES AND OLDER FOLK.
SONGS AND INSTRUMENTS. AND KIWANIANS COOK.
STORY BY DANIELLE CASTONZO • PHOTOS BY ANNIE SAKKAB

The Kiwanis Club of Hamilton, Ontario, has played an important role at the War of 1812’s Battle of Stoney Creek Reenactment for more than 20 years.

This annual event takes place the first full weekend of June and includes battle reenactments, period music, fireworks and free activities for children, including face painting.

Kiwanis Club of Hamilton members are responsible for running the concession stands at the event and feeding the reenactors, says 2015-16 President Ron Robinson.

“It’s one of the main events we do every year,” Robinson says. “It’s great exposure for Kiwanis, but we’re also serving the community.”

Robinson says he looks forward to seeing the period costumes and battle reenactments every year.

Feeding the re-enactors and their audience typically raises between CAD$3,000 and $5,000, Robinson says. Half of those proceeds go toward the Battlefield House Museum. The rest of the money goes toward funding children’s events, scholarships for high school students, food banks and a community garden.

The most rewarding part of working the event, Robinson says, is seeing families enjoy the battle year after year.

“You see people that were young when they first started to come here,” he says. “Now they’re married with families of their own, bringing their kids to see the battle.”
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